VILLEGAS, ANTONIO

6/19/70 CONFIDENTIAL RE MH 6/12/70 memo on anti-Castro plots. HW
Copy to GRS only.

Because of time pressures, this is all from recollection and may thus be flawed.

I regard this as an important area and the conjectures as reasonable. I also think it should be pursued without haste and with care. The numbers in () are those of the relevant Hoch paragraphs.

(1) Save for the last sentence, this is all in accord with what I have known and understood and, remarkably, with what Gerry Hemming also told me about them, for he also claimed to have been befriended and to have known Sylvia in Cuba.

(2) The thievery may have been for this purpose or, as has not been uncommon in such cases, the alleged purpose was later contrived to justify the thefts. Note the Arcacha parallel. He is said to have stolen about $40,000 from the Batista government. The rest of this is consistent with what I think I have and may have gotten from HV or HH, in a story from the SF Examiner of 4/12/64. I have a small file on him and Alpha 66.

(4) There has always been a government IDFTU connection. The National Guardian carried long stories on this and the AFL-CIO operation, for the CIA, against Cheddi Jagan, in British Guiana. ICFTU was set up, under official inspiration, when the WFTU got too liberal and admitted eastern reps. ICFTU operated out of Belgium, and Irving Brown dominated it and represented AFL-CIO. He had free access to the diplomatic pouch, for example, to my own knowledge. I have files that may ultimately be relevant to this but cannot now dig them out. I also have two potential excellent sources, one a reporter and the other a professor whose doctoral thesis was altered to include my suggestion for its orientation and was facilitated by contacts I made for the man, who is a friend and son of a friend. Shorthand: the inference and the speculation are approximately correct.

(5) The interesting thing here would be to learn whether Gonzalez was in any way connected with Seruphino Romualdi, the Latin American Irving Brown (dead).

(7) Bethel also testified before a Congressional committee, I think the Senate Internal Security. His testimony was widely reprinted by rightists.

(8) I have many of Roa's UN speeches along this line, filed with "Tiger to Ride" materials. Some are still available from the UN press office. In the future, when we are farthur along, there is another source I think I can tap on this, but the state of our present knowledge and my circumstances now mitigate against doing it now. It has to be done in person. It is possible the end of this and (15) relate to each other.

(9) From one of my confidential sources, a Bay Pigs vet, I think it is a fair inference that the bazooka was a favorite weapon for such plots, one of which almost succeeded. These guys are nutty enough to have tried it from their own residences.

(10) I will consult a source no longer in Washington who was probably the original source here. I expect a visitor tonight who can do it for me. He is trustworthy and because of what I will ask of him I'll give him the relevant paragrpahs to make his own notes from. The point is not properly made here. I mean in general reference to C, V, etc., without indication of reason to anyone.

(12) Note similarity to "Cuban Power" actual attack, on UN itself.

(13) I am without doubt of this and regard it as likely understatement.

(14) These pages of CD1546 I do not have and would like very much. I take it this is Mrs. Joanna Rogers, who I was a bit late getting to when I was in Dallas, but who will be interviewed when Ican. They met SO's boyfriend Ferre, who asked them to take her in for her convalescence, etc. You have my memos on this. During the time she was with the Rogerses Sylvia got letter from Connell, then in Boston, forgot them, and Joanna gave them to Lt. Butler, and they were never heard of again. Trudi Castorr made the contact, trusting Butler. I should be consulted about anything relevent, for there is much I have not out on paper. Hal should be prompted to contact Brandon again, on those women. He has a list of questions from me.

Relative to Hemming, above, I havethis on tape but have never had time to transcribe the tape.

(15) It is likely Flammonde's source was JG. Flammonde had nothing of his own save error. JG's version is that Bobby was made privy to all of this at Guantanamo, hence had to keep his mohth shut. I doubt the Bobby angle, but have no doubt there were such plots without end. Inspiration is likely as conjectured. With Anderson the FBI is a very likely source. He is close to them.

(16) a. I do not have this part of the JG files and would like. I did interview both Guitarts, and the experience, even after knowing Bringuier, is not easily expressed to those without such contacts. He is incredible and the son is entirely beyond description. Both are fond of and full of respect for Bringuier, who they think is great and a noble leader of men. I think it entirely reasonable that Guitart was there because of his feelings about Bringuier as well as his arcane politics. Jr. is also a Havanaw lewyer, almost as brilliant as Bringuier.

b. Trucking is only part of the Odio fortune. I suggest that if they were suspected of being part of an assassination plot, their histories would have been entirely different. With that kind of loot, would you expect them to have been?

c. That Sylvia mentioned Quiroga is indeed fascinating! Interesting that Liebeler had no interest in this, or that there are no relevant FBI reports. I doubt that the JG office could have gotten Guitart to say anything he didn't want to and I take this at face value. Regard it as potentially very significant. Again, remember that wto women expected Sylvia to kill herself. Machann still holds some secrets, from Sylvia. Guitatr would more likely have leaned the other way, as in telling me he didn't know Sylvia's new husbandss last name of their Miami address.

d. You might want to add more here. Like Bringuier's connection with Alpha 66 in N.O., with Geraci, who had a friend in and was possibly himself connected with Alpha 66, which was sought out when he left home, etc. NamoL Bretos, then mechanic N.O. Fiat dealership, 1968 one in Miami (service manager). And LHO's report to Vhandler (Vrawford) and Bringuier's perjuries.

e. Agreed, but also proof that he really was in prison, not just a cover, for he was so mued, even irrationally (O in NO).

(18) My 8CH still has a marker at this point. Why not try and get this from the CD files or other files?

(19) Sylvia was up tight about this. Bad feelings did develop between her and Connell, and there had to be a reason. I'm not satisfied with the explanations I've been able to get. But doesn't this sound exactly like Bringuier, who could have believed it? I also lack this page of CD 1546. I have 42; 66-8; maybe 213, but 212-2; 247, and would like anything else.

I will file this under Odio.